

SWANAGE TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Report to the AGM of the Dorset Twinning Association October 2011

I am pleased to report another very good year for the Association and its 70 members. The highlight was the visit in June of 38 members from our twin town of Rudesheim am Rhein, to celebrate with us 25 years since the founding of the twinning partnership.

The Mayor of Swanage, Cllr William Trite officially welcomed the visitors at the Mowlem Community Room in Swanage in the presence of Town Councillors and Swanage members. Frau Ute Neugebauer, Chairman of the Rudesheim twinning organisation, presented us with a vine, since planted near the Swanage TIC, and a seat with a brass commemorative plaque sited on the downs overlooking the bay. On behalf of the Swanage Association, Chairman Mike Stollery presented a plaque to Frau Neugebauer, carved from local Purbeck stone, suitably inscribed, and a certificate commemorating the anniversary which will be hung in the Rudesheim Rathaus (Town hall).



**The seat presented to the Swanage Association
Village Hall
by our Rudesheim friends**

Party time at Harmans Cross

Less formal events during the visit included a day visit to Windsor and the traditional end of visit party held in the splendid new Harman's Cross Village Hall. Additionally there were various ad-hoc gatherings in hosting members' houses, as we regard these get-togethers to be an important part of our visits both in Swanage and Rudesheim.

In April, we enjoyed meeting with other twinning associations at the Dorset Association Quiz, coming a respectable 4th. Our usual programme of talks and fund-raising events have continued throughout the year. Subjects of the talks have included, Old Swanage, Killimanjaro, Clerical Errors and a Desert Island Discs evening and, for our fund-raisers, (we receive no grants from anyone) we held a Quiz Night and Ploughman's Supper, attended by among others, a team from the Wareham – Hemsbach Association and a barbecue in the garden of one of our members at Langton Matravers.

On Friday October 14th, we have our final fund-raising event of the year – our Oktoberfest at the Swanage Football Club. At the time of writing there are still some tickets left at £10, in advance, or £12 on the door (if not sold out beforehand!) Finally, our AGM and Annual Dinner will be held at the Pines Hotel on 7th November.

Mike Stollery, Chairman